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homemakers' chat

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

reserve SPECIAL HOMEMAKERS' CHAT TO FLOODED REGIONS

~~JUN 8 43~~
RELEASE IMMEDIATE

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Subject: "THE FLOODED VICTORY GARDEN." Information from plant scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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The Victory Garden that has been under flood water...that's the problem for today.

Plant scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture suggest that fortunately, it is early enough in the season so you can have a fine garden in spite of flood waters.

First, of course, you will want to be sure the ground is dry enough to work. Try that simple test you try in the spring before you start spading. Take up a handful of soil and squeeze it...then open your fingers. If the soil holds its shape...does not crumble apart when you open your hand...then it is still too wet to plant. But if it breaks apart and crumbles, it is ready to dig up again and replant.

But you won't put in the same crops all over...the vegetables you planted 4 to 6 weeks ago. It is too late to replant early peas, for example, or early potatoes or cabbage. The crops to put in now are those you would normally plant about this time of year. You still have a wide choice of vegetables that luckily are just due to go in now.

This is the right time to put in tomato plants--in some ways the most important plants in the whole Victory Garden. As soon as the ground is dry enough to work, bring out those tomato plants from your sunny windows. Plant them with collars around each one to keep away cutworms. Allow about a dozen to 15 plants for each person in your family if you plan to can as well as eat

fresh.

Also you can still put in beans--snap beans and lima beans. They also are some of the most important crops of the Victory Garden.

And you can still put in some greens. Swiss chard can go in this late. It stands summer heat better than some of the early greens. And it's a thrifty vegetable because you can keep cutting the outer leaves and using them, and the plant will just keep on growing new leaves to keep you supplied. The young tender leaves of chard, you know, are delicious in salad. The older leaves are good cooked as greens. You can still put in beet greens, too. As for turnips, most varieties don't like summer weather. But one variety will thrive if planted this late. That's the Shogoin...spelled S-H-O-G-O-I-N.

Other plants to put in now are peppers and eggplant. And you can plant now your summer squash, okra, sweet corn and sweet potatoes.

Many of the insect pests that you had to look out for in your early garden were carried away by the flood. But one insect to guard against in your after-flood garden is the cutworm. For odd as it may seem, one kind of cutworm seems to follow floods...so much so that it often goes by the name of "flood worm" or "overflow worm." Now is rather late in the season for cutworm damage, but because cutworms have often followed floods, you will be wise to take precautions.

In a small garden put paper collars around the tomato plants, pepper plants, and young eggplant you set out. Use a bait of poisoned bran in a larger garden. Ask your county agent to advise you.

Now just a few notes about the vegetables to plant now.

First, about beans: Snap beans need a fairly rich soil, but too much fertilizer makes snap beans grow more to leaves than beans. On the other hand, for lima beans you can hardly have soil too rich. They thrive on fertilizing. Lima beans are warm weather beans. They suffer from cold and too much wet. Be

sure the ground has dried out enough when you plant them. It's a good idea to keep both snap beans and lima beans "coming" in your home garden to provide variety in meals and young tender beans of both kinds all during the season. Make about 2 successive plantings of limas...plantings of snap beans every 2 weeks. Remember not to gather beans or work around beans when the leaves are wet with dew or rain. This tends to spread disease.

As for sweetcorn, this is a vegetable for a large rather than a small garden. For the rows must be at least 3 feet apart, and each plant 15 to 18 feet apart in drills...3 or 4 feet apart in hills.

This late in the season you want to put in plants rather than seeds of pepper and eggplant also sweetpotato plants. Six or 8 good plants of green pepper will be enough for most families...so will 8 or 10 plants of eggplant. Both these plants need very rich, well-drained soil, and plenty of water. Eggplant must grow rapidly, or the vegetables become tough and woody.

Sweetpotatoes like a rather light, warm, sandy soil with plenty of decayed manure or commercial fertilizer. Plant sweetpotatoes on wide ridges some 3 to 4 apart and 12 to 15 inches apart in the row. Apply the fertilizer in small trenches, or to the surface of the ground before throwing up the ridges.

So as soon as the ground is dry enough to work, the plants to put in are: tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and sweetpotato. The seeds to put in are: Snap and lima beans, summer squash, okra, Swiss chard, sweet corn.

